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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

BOURNE, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1914.

To the Bourne Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The writing of an Annual Report for a District such as this becomes year by year ever more embarrassing, since in the main it consists of telling old, oft-repeated facts with slightly different phrasing, of efforts to wake your interest, gain your attention and mayhap your action in matters pertaining to the sanitation of your District, without arousing that sense of repetition *ad nauseam*, which would be fatal.

So with all the tact I can command I venture on my task, only to be met at the very outset with a stumbling-block ! That Bathing Place you talked of in the long ago, and which I mentioned in my last Report ! That was the last mention of the subject that I know of, you put the matter underneath your pillows, yet whilst you slept the Death-roll of your District went up by one. In the hot weather boys will bathe, and failing a proper place will use a dangerous one. Are you or are you not to blame ?

The District and its Characters. Try as I may there is little fresh that can be recorded under this heading. It is still almost purely agricultural, the efforts of the Town's Improvement Committee which you appointed have not as yet been successful in introducing any fresh industry or manufacture. The fen area, which forms so large a portion of your District, has passed out of the hands of big landlords into comparatively small ownerships, more intensive agriculture seems resulting and so a demand for more labour seems apparent, in fact your Council has already been petitioned to build houses in that locality for labourers, to which matter I shall refer under its appropriate heading.

Your charities still exercise an adverse influence on the Vital Statistics, since they are responsible for your very large proportion of aged inhabitants; out of a total population of 4,344 there are 150—one in every twenty-nine—who are 70 years of age and are receiving the old age pension, which of course does not by any means include every septuagenarian. It is therefore very gratifying to note that your Charity Trustees are diverting a larger proportion of their income to the relief of temporary illness and adversity. I have spoken of the Town's Improvement Committee without suggesting the smallest blame that they have been unsuccessful, so may I also call your attention to one of your number who has most certainly improved the town and its entrance by creating at his own expense the garden along the riverside; may I suggest that he deserves your thanks.

Vital Statistics. It was not to be expected that the much-decreased Death-rate of your District for the last two years would be maintained, but in spite of the reduction in the ten-year average which these two years have brought about, the rate for the year under review keeps well below it. After deducting the number of non-residents who died in the Union Workhouse and allowing for those of your inhabitants whose deaths occurred outside the District, the total number of deaths for the year was 59, which gives an average of 13·4, and compares with your ten-year average of 14·2.

Of these deaths 21 were over 70 years of age, one indeed was a centenarian, and the average age of the twenty-one reached the very respectable age of 85. Contagious Disease was the cause in eight instances, under which heading Tubercular Disease is now included. They were : Measles 3, Whooping Cough 1, Erysipelas 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2. There was also one doubtful case of Cerebro-spinal Fever.

The number of deaths from Cancer or other Malignant Disease was four, but one of these only took up his domicile here in order to be nursed by relatives, in the last stages of that dreadful disease.

The Infantile Mortality also, though not nearly so low as in the previous year, is still well below the ten-year average. There were 10 deaths under the age of one year, which gives an average of 98 to compare with your ten-year average of 119·9. Of these 10, five had no chance from birth, one was due to Measles, one to Whooping Cough, and only one to Gastric disorder, which as a rule is such a large factor in the mortality of Infancy.

The Birth-rate showed a remarkable increase for the first two quarters of the year, but this unfortunately was not maintained to the end, so that for the whole year, with a total of 102 corrected to 98, by the elimination of births in which though occurring here your inhabitants were not concerned, an average rate of 22·3 is given as against your ten-year average of 22·1, and in these times of falling Birth-rate it is quite a matter of congratulation that the rate is even maintained.

Infectious Diseases. During the past year there were 18 cases of notifiable Infectious Disease, viz. :—Diphtheria 6, Erysipelas 2, Scarlet Fever 3, Puerperal Fever 1, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis 1, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2, Tuberculosis (other forms) 3.

Of the Diphtheria cases, the first occurred in a house in Wood View, where late in the previous year there had been an imported case of the same disease. It could only be surmised that this later case was the result of some undestroyed infectivity from the previous one, the more so as the house in question is anything but cleanly.

The other five cases all occurred in the Coggles Causeway, four in one household and one in a neighbour's house. It was obvious that four of the cases were the result of direct contagion from the initial one, but the source of that one seemed obscure; water-borne and milk-borne infection was satisfactorily excluded, but there is a certain significance in the fact that the patient, a youth, worked in the immediate vicinity of Wood View and had just previously been employed in removing refuse there. Taking into consideration the unpreparedness of your District's Isolation Buildings and also that the Coggles Causeway is in a sense a remote spot, I endeavoured to isolate the infected case at home, but the attempt was a failure, and I have no doubt that had the original case been immediately removed the other four cases would not have occurred; however, so far as the course of the cases was concerned, they were, thanks to your provision, promptly treated with Anti-toxin Serum, and all made an uninterrupted recovery. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the public what a potent remedy, nay God-send, this treatment is if only it is applied in time. What was not long ago a most anxious and dangerous malady the physician of to-day can almost laugh at if, and always if, he is called in in time. So it should be understood that when sore-throat, as it is called, occurs, difficulty in swallowing, the throat should be looked at, watched, and the appearance of the least speck of yellow, white or gray upon it should be the signal for medical advice *at once*.

The three cases of Scarlatina occurred in boys of about the same age, who, though living in opposite parts of the Town, still went to the same class-room at School. The cases were all very mild, they were isolated in their own homes, and no further spread resulted. The case notified as Cerebro-spinal Fever I consider very doubtful, and should not trouble you therewith but that I am specially asked by the Local Government Board, in the event of any such case, to supply full particulars. The case then was that of a young woman aged 26, who had shown no previous signs of Tuberculosis, and whose family had no Tuberculous history.

About two months previously she had been as a Nursemaid in Switzerland, and whilst there first experienced pains in her back without any knowledge of sprain, strain or injury ; on her return to England she came home into your District to recover, as she hoped and for some weeks appeared to do, then suddenly what is known as acute Cerebro-spinal Meningitis set in with well-marked symptoms, and there were a few indistinct spots. Lumbar puncture was attempted, but was abortive, and after eight days' acute illness the patient died.

Although five cases of Pulmonary Disease were notified, two of these were cases of old standing which had to be notified under the Local Government Board's Regulations of 1912. Of the other three, two were what is known as Consumption, and of them one has died and the other is still under treatment, the third, a case of Tuberculous Peritonitis, is I believe doing well. It is a matter for congratulation, to boast of, if you will, that your District is so immune from this complaint, which in many others is a positive scourge, and it is to be hoped that the special attention which is now directed to that disease may enable you to maintain your enviable position.

Isolation of Infectious Cases. In this respect your District is exactly in the same position as last year, when at this time I wrote in my Report :—"The permanent Infectious Hospital of the Rural District Council, to which you have expressed yourselves willing to subscribe, or rather to pay for the accommodation of, remains still on paper, but will, I am assured, in the very near future, be something much more tangible." If I am not justified in saying that the Rural Council are letting the grass grow under their feet, I am at any rate correct in saying that they are still letting the grass grow on the site of their Infectious Hospital.

The Isolation Buildings in Manor Lane are certainly useful, but they lack the constant and instant readiness of a permanent staff, which is all essential.

Housing Accommodation. During the year 1913 ten new houses were erected, seven of the villa type in the Town itself, and three dwellings in the fen on small holdings by the County Council. The six cottages which you decided to build under the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, although not commenced last year, are now making satisfactory progress towards completion, but in spite of my appeals, you decided to study the economic interests of the ratepayers rather than the economic capabilities of the labourer, for whom it is to be supposed these houses are intended. The rental, I am informed, is to be 3/8 per week, which, when the extent of garden is taken into consideration, will give better value for money than any similar property in the District; it is, however, too high a proportion of 15/- to be spent in house-rent.

You have recently received a petition to build cottages at Twenty, signed by all the local farmers, not by the working men with whose interests the Housing Act is mainly concerned. From that it would seem that there are difficulties in getting sufficient labour in that district, that the existence of more cottages there would relieve it. Even so, but then the Act does not authorize you to erect cottages to attract labour; its aim is for the better provision of suitable dwellings where labour is. Judging by the cost of the six cottages you are now erecting in the Town it is obvious that cottages could not be provided in that locality at an economic rent of less than 4/- per week, scarcely even if the land cost you nothing, as has been suggested. The weekly wage of ordinary labour thereabouts may be stated as ranging from 16/6 to 18/-, and therefore a rental of 4/- could hardly attract your Council a satisfactory class of tenant. It has been mooted that these employers would guarantee the rent. I am almost sure that would not be acceptable to the Local Government Board, and I am quite sure your Council would prefer the employers to guarantee these prospective tenants an income economically sufficient to provide the bare economic rental you would be obliged to ask.

Details of the Inspection of the District under the Housing Regulations of 1910 are as under :—

Houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	...	...	57
Dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	16
Representations made to Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	...	...	none
Closing Orders made	...	...	none
The number of Dwelling-houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation	...	...	none
The number of Dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	16

The principal defects were :—excessive dampness, deficient ventilation, defective drains and general dilapidation.

Seven cases of overerowding were brought to notice and with difficulty abated owing to the insufficiency of cottage accommodation in your District.

Sewage Disposal. The enlarged Sewage-beds have worked quite satisfactorily during the year, and the better arrangements for dealing with storm-water now prevent the frequent flooding of the works, and the consequent washing of insufficiently treated sewage into the Weir dyke. The latter, however, is in a disgraceful state and needs immediate and thorough cleansing. Partly owing to detritus washed into it previously and partly from landing up there is in many places little channel left. It is a serious nuisance to the few houses in its vicinity, and should be cleaned out without delay.

Refuse Disposal. The system of house-to-house collection of refuse has proceeded satisfactorily, and is now taken advantage of by the bulk of your house-holders, but there has been considerable laxity on the part of the latter in providing proper covered receptacles. Printed notices have been issued calling attention to this matter, and possibly further action will need to be taken to prevent this nuisance. At the same time it would be an improvement if your Council were to provide a covered cart for this service.

Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds and Slaughter-houses. The Bakehouses have been inspected periodically and found in most instances satisfactory and clean, but in two instances notices had to be served for lack of proper lime-washing. The Dairies and Cowsheds have been frequently inspected and the larger ones have all maintained their cleanliness ; there are, however, several vendors of milk who keep one or perhaps two cows, who have given the Inspector considerable trouble in the way of serving notices for lack of cleanliness, want of lime-washing, and defective drainage.

The Slaughter-houses have been systematically inspected and no serious fault was to be found. In one instance, however, the place was being used for the slaughter of more animals than the license permitted ; this has been discontinued.

Food Inspection, etc. In August last several of your inhabitants, and in some instances several members of the same household, were taken suddenly and violently ill on the same day, suffering from collapse, cramps and abdominal pain, accompanied by violent sickness and diarrhoea.

A few cases of a similar nature occurred in neighbouring villages.

Though in one or two instances the persons were gravely ill, all recovered satisfactorily. In every instance the sufferer had

partaken of what is known as "collared head," supplied by a butcher in the Town. Immediately on becoming aware of this I interviewed the tradesman, and he promptly stopped all further sale of his stock of this nature, which, although apparently in every way sound and wholesome, was evidently contaminated by a poison, the result of bacterial action.

Subsequently, at the request of the Local Government Board, I furnished them with a special report on the subject.

The public should be aware that flesh, such as pork, especially when enveloped in jelly, which constitutes what is known as "collared head," in hot weather forms a paradise for venomous bacteria. It should be avoided. Tradesmen also should remember it and refrain from putting such a risky article on the market at unseasonable times.

General Nuisances. According to the Report of your Sanitary Inspector the number of nuisances dealt with during the year was 89. They were mainly caused by overflowing, filthy or dilapidated privies; unclean pigstyes; defective drains; a few instances of accumulation of refuse, and seven cases of overcrowding.

In 53 instances statutory notice was served, and 36 informal notices were given.

The nuisances were all satisfactorily abated.

Workshops and Workplaces. The number of Workshops, including Bake-houses, on the register during the year was 18. These have all been regularly inspected, and the defects comprise:—three cases of insufficient cleanliness, two of accumulations of refuse, three of defective sanitary arrangements and one of insufficient sanitary accommodation. These defects were all remedied without reference to H.M. Inspector, and no prosecutions were necessary.

Pollution of Watercourses. The pollution of the Bourne Eau, as mentioned in my previous reports, still continues, but I have received no official complaint on the matter.

May I call your attention to the condition of the Bourne Eau immediately above the source of the nuisance just mentioned. The wide basin, or quay, as it is termed, has become choked up with mud and refuse indescribable; when the water is low it has become the salient feature in an unlovely neighbourhood; an Elysium for ducks—I do not eat duck now. Yet I have seen a most bewitching picture by our local artist, which portrayed, 'tis true with somewhat of a painter's licence, this very spot, so take no notice of my æsthetic views, indeed that was not the main purpose of my mention of the matter. My main purpose is perhaps a little foreign to the scope of this report, yet not altogether so since my instructions are "to give an account of any influences *threatening* the health of the District."

This basin, then, and the river bed below, are all choked up. Whose is the responsibility? Not yours, perhaps! Someone's, at any rate! Then if you *do not* the work, see that it *is done*, done before a broken bank, a flooded fen, lie in some measure at least upon your conscience!

Appended will be found the usual Tables dealing with Vital Statistics, Infant Mortality, Infectious Disease, and Factory and Workshops, and in recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., full attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GILPIN.

TABLE 1.
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non-residents register'd in the District	of Residents not register'd in the District	Under Year of age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	4402	98		22.2	84	19	8	3	17	173.4	72	16.3
1909	4379	89		20.3	60	13.4	7	6	9	101.2	59	13.2
1910	4408	111		25.2	90	20.4	18	2	17	153.1	74	16.7
1911	4344	84		18.8	52	11.8	8	3	8	97.6	47	10.5
1912	4344	88		20.2	49	11.05	6	2	5	56.8	45	10.3
1913	4380	102	98	22.3	65	14.8	7	5	10	98	59	13.4

At Census 1911—Total population at all ages, 4344.—Number of Inhabited Houses, 935.

Average number of persons per house, 4.5.

Area of District in acres, (land and inland water), 9775.

TABLE II.
 BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
 Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

Diseases Notified during the Year 1913.									
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
	At all Ages.	At all Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65		65 and upwards
Small-pox									
Cholera									
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup..	6			5	1				
Erysipelas	2						2		
Scarlet fever	3			3					
Typhus fever									
Enteric fever									
Relapsing fever.. ..									
Continued fever ..									
Puerperal fever.. ..	1				1				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1					1			
Pollomyelitis									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2					2			
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3				1	2			
Totals	18			8	3	5	2		

Isolation Hospital—Isolation Buildings, Manor Lane, Urban District.

TABLE III.
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up- wards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes } Certified.	61	10	3		2	1	13	11	21	65
} Uncertified.										
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles	3	1	2							3
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough	1	1								1
Diphtheria and Croup										
Influenza										
Erysipelas	1						1			1
Phthisis(PulmonaryTuberculosis)	2						2			2
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Cancer, malignant disease	4				1			1	2	4
Rheumatic Fever										2
Meningitis	2		1				1			
Organic Heart Disease	5						2	1	2	3
Bronchitis	1	1								1
Pneumonia (all forms)	4						2	1	1	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2								2	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	1								1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis										
Cirrhosis of Liver	1							1		1
Alcoholism	2							2		2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2						1			3
Puerperal Fever	1					1			1	1
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.. .. .										
Congenital Debility and Malfor- mation, including Premature Birth	5	5								5
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2				1				1	2
Suicide										
Other Defined Diseases	19						4	4	11	22
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	3	1						1	1	3

TABLE IV.
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.
INFANT MORTALITY, 1913. Net deaths from stated causes at various ages
under 1 year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-8 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	2	2				2	2		2	10
Small-pox									1	1
Chicken-pox									1	1
Measles										
Scarlet fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria and Croup ..										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis ..										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)										
Convulsions						1				1
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis							1			1
Pneumonia (all forms)							1			1
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations		1								1
Premature birth	2									2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		1				1				2
Other causes										

Net Births in the year—legitimate 93, illegitimate 5. Net Deaths in the year—legitimate infants 9, illegitimate infants 1.

TABLE V.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1913, for The Urban District of Bourne,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	No. of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	14		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	33	9	
Workplaces			
Total	47	9	Nil.

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i> (1)				
Want of cleanliness	..	4		
Want of ventilation	..	1		
Overcrowding	..			
Want of Drainage of floors	..	2		
Defective roof structure	..	3		
Other nuisances	..			
Sanitary accommodation	..			
} insufficient	..			
} unsuitable or defective	..	2		
} not separate for sexes	..			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	..			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	..			
Other offences	..			
Total	12	12	Nil.	Nil.

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3. Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)				Number. (2)
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses	..	..	9

	Workshops	..	..	14

Total number of Workshops on Register				23

4. Other Matters.

Class.		Number.
(1)		(2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901) ..	..	5
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory & Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901) {	Notified by H.M. Inspector ..	
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ..	5
Other ..	..

W. J. GILPIN,

Medical Officer of Health,

March 2nd, 1914.